



# Grant County Health Department

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## Tobacco Products Off CVS Shelves

CVS Caremark pharmacies took a bold stance on February 5 by announcing they will cease selling tobacco products in their stores by October 1, 2014. By no longer selling tobacco products, they have shown that they believe in their purpose to "help people on their path to better health".

Jeff Kindrai, Director/Health Officer for the Grant County Health Department comments that "In Grant County we have less tobacco retailers than we did 10 years ago and those that still sell tobacco products do not sell them to children over 94% of the time based on tobacco compliance checks done under the Wisconsin WINS program."

However, Kindrai expressed concerns over the new nicotine containing products being introduced that often look like and taste like candy products as well as the increase in the sale of E-cigarettes. This is in part because the full health risks associated with these products are not well understood yet and the marketing of them often seems to be directed toward youth. "Nicotine is a legal but toxic and addictive substance. In addition, to the risk of accidental overdose particularly for children with some of the newer candy like products nicotine use alone is thought to increase risk of hypertension and stroke".

If you're interested in more information on local tobacco prevention efforts, contact Youth2Youth of Rock County at 608-313-9220 or [www.rcy2y.com](http://www.rcy2y.com).

Tobacco users who want to quit can receive free help from the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line. Call 1-800-QUIT NOW today

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